(b) whether an 11-member expert committee has been set up to clear the obstructions of Government's approach for widening the NREGS;

(c) whether NREGS would fulfil aim of providing minimum livelihood support to drought affected families; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision will be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) This Ministry has issued advisories to drought-affected States to meet employment demand in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(b) There had been no obstructions to the Government's approach for widening the scope of NREGS. So no 11 member expert committee has been set up to clear obstructions.

(c) and (d) Aim of NREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household for doing unskilled manual work on demand. Draught affected households can avail of employment provided under NREGA.

Merging of rural schemes

584. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to merge all rural schemes into one comprehensive district plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Modification in NREGS

585. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has felt that there is an urgent need to remove the limit of 100 days limitation under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) in view of the drought situation in the county;

(b) whether Government is committed to ensure to pay at least Rs.100 per day as minimum wages under NREGS; and

(c) if so, what efforts it made to achieve the above objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) NREGA is demand based. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage